

HENRY WILLIAMS DEAD

Leading Citizen Expires During Night At His Home.

LONG A FACTOR FOR GOOD HERE

Financial And Political Life Over-shadowed By Reputation As A Gentleman Of Old School.

Henry Williams, for more than 40 years one of the leading men of Baltimore and a man who was respected and admired by all who knew him, died of heart trouble some time before day yesterday morning at his home on Thirty-ninth street, near University Parkway.

Mr. Williams' death was as quiet and peaceful as his life had been. He had not been in especially good health for some time, but was not considered sick. He had been down town on Saturday and Sunday evening he entertained a number of his friends at his home. Late in the evening he complained of being slightly indisposed, and when he went to bed his valet went to Mr. Williams' room and spent the night there so as to be within easy call if Mr. Williams should need him. Mr. Williams went to sleep and seemed to rest easily.

Some time in the night, probably about daylight, death touched him as he slept and he passed away so quietly that the man in the room with him did not know that he had died. As soon as the man awoke he went to Mr. Williams' side and saw that he did not seem to be breathing and went at once for Dr. C. Reid Edwards, who had been staying in the house, and also called Mr. Williams' son, George Weems Williams. Dr. Edwards saw at once that Mr. Williams was dead, and said that he had probably died about 6 o'clock in the morning.

Was Courteous And Gentle.

The passing of Mr. Williams takes from the life of Baltimore one of the type of gentlemen familiar enough in the old days, but becoming more and more rare every year. Gentle in manner, dignified in bearing, with a touch of formality, always courteous and considerate in his dealings with other men, genial and warm-hearted with his friends and those he loved, always willing to give any man the benefit of the doubt, he was at the same time absolutely unswerving in his sense of duty and the right. While he was always willing to consider the other man's point of view, he was immovable when any issue arose between himself and his fellows that involved a matter of principle and no matter how great the majority against him he could not be budged an inch from what he considered to be right. In Mr. Williams' make-up there was no such thing as a compromise on a principle, as in the course of his long life in Baltimore many men, deceived by his gentle and courteous bearing, found out to their discomfort.

Headed The Weems Line.

Mr. Williams has been a familiar figure on the streets in the business section for a long time, although of late years not so much was seen of him as formerly. For 30 years and until that company was absorbed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Mr. Williams was at the head of the Weems Line of steamers, that ran from Baltimore to points on the bay and to the Potomac, Rappahannock and other nearby Virginia rivers, and there are thousands of persons living along those rivers now that still regret the day that the line passed from the Williams' control.

The relations that existed between the shippers and the passengers who used the steamers and Mr. Williams and other officers of the company were those of warm friendliness and regard and everything possible was done by the company to foster and promote such relationships. If anything went wrong Mr. Williams was always available for the discussion and the settlement of any difficulty on a friendly basis. If there were any complaints to be made he was always ready to hear them and remove their cause and that without recourse to endless rolls of red tape.

In fact, that was the usual way of running the steamboat business in the old days and Mr. Williams was one of the last of the old group which, in addition to himself, included Reuben Foster, of the York River Line; Capt. D. J. Hill, superintendent of the Old Bay Line; Howard Ensign, of the Maryland Steamboat Company; George Appold, of the Merchants and Miners'; Alexander Shriver, of the Ericsson Line; George Warfield, of the Chester River Line; Willard Thompson, general manager of the old Eastern Shore Steamboat Company, and William C. Ellison, of the then struggling Telechester Steamboat Company. Of all these Mr. Thompson, Mr. Warfield and Mr. Ellison are the only ones left.

For a time after the sale of the Weems Line to the Pennsylvania interests in 1904 Mr. Williams was associated with his sons in the management and direction of the Baltimore and Carolina Steamship Company, which they established with one little steamer, and it

MARYLANDER OF THE OLD SCHOOL DEAD



HENRY WILLIAMS

was due largely to Mr. Williams' sound advice and counsel that the new company was able to steer clear of the traps that were laid for it and the obstacles placed in its way, and win its success.

Twice Ran For Mayor.

Mr. Williams was twice the candidate of the Democratic party of Baltimore for Mayor and in 1907 was almost nominated for Governor of the State. Always deeply interested in good government and in the success of the Democratic party, he had served as a member of the House of Delegates at the sessions of 1864 and 1866 and took an active part in framing the legislation so vital to the welfare of the State in the years following the Civil War. He returned to the Legislature in 1872 as a member of the State Senate, serving at that session and at the session of 1874 and took an active part in putting through the laws which restored the franchise to the white people of the State who had lost their votes because of their sympathy with the South in the Civil War. He was also instrumental in amending the charter of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad to Pope's creek so that it might be extended to Washington. In his service in the Legislature he represented Calvert county, where he was born and where he then lived.

Came Here In 1874.

He came to Baltimore to make this city his home about 1874 and although for a number of years he took little part in political affairs he was deeply interested in them. In 1905 he was nominated for Mayor of Baltimore, the Democratic machine at that time hoping that Mr. Williams' reputation and standing in the community would stem the revolt against it, but he went down in the general crash and Albenus Hooper was elected. Those were the days before the present City Charter was in effect and Mayors were elected for terms of two years. Two years later he was again nominated, but the resentment against the Democratic party management was still too strong and Mr. Williams went down again, William T. Malster being elected.

In 1901 Mr. Williams was elected president of the Second Branch of the City Council and in that office he was one of the strongest advocates of the sale of the city's control of the Western Maryland Railway to the Fuller syndicate, thus insuring Baltimore a third trunk line to the West. Two years later, upon the election of Mayor McLane Mr. Williams was appointed City Collector and served through the term of four years. Soon after the death of Mayor McLane Mr. Williams became involved in a controversy with Mayor Timanus and for a time things were not pleasant for Mr. Williams and it is stated that the only thing that prevented him from resigning was his desire to keep the employees of the Tax office in their positions and to prevent their being replaced by Republicans. He also served on the Baltimore City Water Board and was long a member of the Harbor Board.

In 1907 a strong sentiment developed for his nomination for the Governorship and it was generally believed that he would be nominated. Up to the very day of the convention it was thought certain that he would be named, but at the last moment a shift occurred and the late Governor Austin L. Crothers was nominated instead.

Was 75 Years Old.

Mr. Williams was in his seventy-sixth year. He was born in Calvert county in 1840, his father having been the Rev. Henry Williams, rector of All-Saints' Protestant Episcopal parish, which em-

braced the whole upper part of Calvert county. The ancient rectory was Mr. Williams' boyhood home. He was a grandson of Bishop Thomas John Claggett, the first Protestant Episcopal bishop of Maryland.

He studied at a private school in the neighborhood and under tutors who visited the house. In 1854 he was sent to Baltimore to attend school, became a member of the household of his uncle, Dr. Samuel Chew, and entered Toppings' private school, then on Madison avenue.

After graduating there, he returned home and studied law. In 1860 he entered the office of Charles J. M. Gwinn, one of the ablest lawyers of this city. There he put the finishing touches to

his study of law and in the following year he was admitted to the bar. He went to Prince Frederick, Calvert county, and associated himself with James T. Briscoe and where his career in politics began.

His Children.

In 1868 Mr. Williams married Miss Georgeanna Weems, who survives him with the following children: Mason L. W. Williams, Henry Williams, Jr., George Weems Williams, the lawyer and president of the Park Board, and the Misses Elizabeth Chew Williams and Matilda Weems Williams. His brothers are former Judge Ferdinand Williams, of Cumberland, Md.; Samuel C. Williams and Judge T. J. C. Williams, of the Juvenile Court of this city.

Lately, Mr. Williams' chief business connections have been with the National Bank of Commerce, the Colonial Trust Company and the Central Savings Bank. He was a member of the board of directors of each of these institutions. Eugene Levering is the only member of the board of directors of the National Bank of Commerce who has served on the board longer than Mr. Williams.

Funeral Tomorrow.

During all his life Mr. Williams was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from his home. The services will be conducted by Bishop Murray, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Atkinson, the Rev. Dr. Arthur Chilton Powell and the Rev. Dr. R. F. Humphries.

The active pallbearers will be T. Welsh Claggett, L. B. Keene Claggett, Theodore Weems Forbes, Henry Fleming, John C. White, Richard C. Williams and Samuel C. Chew, Jr.

The honorary pallbearers will be Messrs. Henry Howard, Eugene Levering, Dr. C. Reid Edwards, Thomas Parran, J. H. Ferguson, Wilton Snowden, Blanchard Randall, Thornton Rollins, George Warfield, Alexander H. Robertson, Judge James A. C. Bond, Dr. Charles H. Riley, Key Compton, Judge John P. Briscoe, former Governor Warfield, William L. Marbury, W. Cabell Bruce, Frank Gonnell, John Roberts, S. Sterrett McKim, Judge Oscar Leser, Archibald H. Taylor and Samuel Maddox.

Burial will be in Loudon Park Cemetery.